

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 2446**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani**

February 19, 2010

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An act to amend, repeal, and add Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to graduation requirements.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2446, as amended, Furutani. Graduation requirements.

Existing law prohibits a pupil from receiving a diploma of graduation from high school unless he or she completes specified requirements, including, but not limited to, completing one course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.

This bill, commencing with the 2011–12 school year and until July 1, 2016, would add completion of a course in career technical education, as defined, as an alternative to the requirement that a pupil complete a course in visual or performing arts or foreign language. *The bill would require the State Department of Education to report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2015, the number of pupils who took a career technical education course in order to fulfill this graduation requirement.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares  
2 the following:

3     (1) The foundational principle of the Education Code is that all  
4 pupils shall have access to equitable educational opportunities and  
5 resources.

6     (2) The future of the state is dependent upon minimizing, if not  
7 entirely alleviating, the inequities in our public schools so that all  
8 pupils will have more equitable opportunities to learn skills needed  
9 for entry into the workforce, to pursue postsecondary educational  
10 goals, and to contribute to the social cohesion of the state.

11    (3) Current law specifies the courses a pupil must complete to  
12 graduate from high school. However, too many pupils are dropping  
13 out of high school or graduating without the necessary foundation  
14 to succeed in the workplace or in postsecondary education.

15    (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that:

16    (1) By specifying the types of coursework that pupils must  
17 complete in order to graduate, pupils will have world class skills  
18 and the workforce of the state will be competitive in the global  
19 economy.

20    (2) Pupils will be prepared to meet the academic and technical  
21 skills challenges of the high school curriculum and that they will  
22 take advantage of the range of course options available to them.

23    (3) In order to increase the rigor of the coursework and to ensure  
24 that pupils are prepared to meet the demands of the 21st century,  
25 the courses required for high school graduation must be aligned  
26 with the standards and frameworks that are adopted by the state  
27 board.

28    SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is amended to  
29 read:

30    51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while  
31 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of  
32 graduation from high school:

33    (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects  
34 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless  
35 otherwise specified:

36    (A) Three courses in English.

37    (B) Two courses in mathematics.

1 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
2 sciences.

3 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
4 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
5 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a  
6 one-semester course in economics.

7 (E) One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language,  
8 or, commencing with the 2011–12 school year, career technical  
9 education.

10 (i) For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in  
11 this subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be  
12 deemed a course in foreign language.

13 (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career  
14 technical education” means a course in a district-operated career  
15 technical education program that is aligned to the career technical  
16 model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state  
17 board.

18 (iii) This subparagraph does not require a school or school  
19 district that currently does not offer career technical education  
20 courses to start new career technical education programs for  
21 purposes of this section.

22 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been  
23 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

24 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing  
25 board of the school district.

26 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,  
27 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means  
28 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may  
29 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,  
30 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,  
31 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses  
32 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,  
33 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a  
34 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and  
35 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course  
36 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

37 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district  
38 shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other  
39 requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that  
40 are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified

1 in this section if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12,  
2 transfers into the district from another school district or between  
3 high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding  
4 that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional  
5 requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she  
6 remains eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A  
7 school district shall notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an  
8 exemption pursuant to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the  
9 person holding the right to make educational decisions for the  
10 pupil, if any of the requirements that are waived will affect the  
11 pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational  
12 institution and shall provide information about transfer  
13 opportunities available through the California Community  
14 Colleges.

15 *(d) On or before January 1, 2015, the State Department of*  
16 *Education shall report to the appropriate policy committees of the*  
17 *Legislature the number of pupils who took a career technical*  
18 *education course in order to fulfill the requirement specified in*  
19 *subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a). A school*  
20 *district may report the number of career technical education*  
21 *courses taken by pupils to fulfill the requirement specified in*  
22 *subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) through the*  
23 *California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System.*

24 ~~(d)~~

25 *(e) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2016, and,*  
26 *as of January 1, 2017, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,*  
27 *that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2017, deletes or*  
28 *extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.*

29 SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 is added to the Education Code, to  
30 read:

31 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while  
32 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of  
33 graduation from high school:

34 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects  
35 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless  
36 otherwise specified:

37 (A) Three courses in English.

38 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

39 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
40 sciences.

1 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
2 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
3 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a  
4 one-semester course in economics.

5 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.  
6 For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this  
7 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be  
8 deemed a course in foreign language.

9 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been  
10 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

11 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing  
12 board of the school district.

13 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,  
14 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means  
15 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may  
16 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,  
17 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,  
18 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses  
19 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,  
20 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a  
21 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and  
22 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course  
23 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

24 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district  
25 shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other  
26 requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that  
27 are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified  
28 in this section if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12,  
29 transfers into the district from another school district or between  
30 high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding  
31 that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional  
32 requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she  
33 remains eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A  
34 school district shall notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an  
35 exemption pursuant to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the  
36 person holding the right to make educational decisions for the  
37 pupil, if any of the requirements that are waived will affect the  
38 pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational  
39 institution and shall provide information about transfer

- 1 opportunities available through the California Community
- 2 Colleges.
- 3 (d) This section shall become operative July 1, 2016.

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